

Senate Bill No. 688

Passed the Senate September 8, 2005

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly September 1, 2005

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2005, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to add Section 51211 to the Education Code, relating to pupil health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 688, Speier. The Skin Cancer Prevention Act for California Schools.

Existing law provides the adopted course of study for grades 1 to 6, inclusive, and requires a school district to offer instruction on a variety of subjects.

This bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to inform county offices of education and school districts as to the availability of instructional materials relating to skin cancer prevention, and the manner in which these materials may be obtained.

This bill would require the State Department of Health Services to provide to the Superintendent, in electronic format, the list of skin cancer prevention education resources designed for use in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, upon his or her request. The bill would require the State Department of Education to establish a skin cancer prevention policy to educate pupils in grades 1 to 6, inclusive, with certain requirements.

The bill would require the State Department of Education, after consultation with the State Department of Health Services and certain private corporations, to report to the Legislature with respect to shade options for use over public school playground structures and outdoor eating areas, and the costs associated with those structures.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. This bill shall be known, and may be cited, as the Skin Cancer Prevention Act for California Schools.

SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares as follows:

(a) The chief cause of skin cancer is exposure to ultraviolet rays from natural sunlight and artificial sources.

(b) According to the American Cancer Society, skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States. One in five

Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime and one American every hour dies from the disease.

(c) The lifetime risk of getting skin cancer is linked to sun exposure and sunburn during childhood and adolescence.

(d) The United States Department of Health and Human Services in its Ninth Report on Carcinogens, classified solar radiation as a “known human carcinogen” or cancer-causing agent.

(e) The purpose of the Healthy People 2010 Objective is to increase the proportion of persons, particularly adolescents, who use at least one of the protective measures that may reduce the risk of skin cancer, for example, reducing midday sun exposure, wearing hats and longer clothing, and using sunscreen.

(f) Schools have the potential to positively influence pupil behavior regarding skin cancer prevention.

(g) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, the National Association of School Boards of Education, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Health Services Skin Cancer Prevention Program have published guidelines or instructional materials regarding sun safety and skin cancer prevention for schools.

(h) It is, therefore, the intent of the Legislature, in recognizing the generally understood link between sun exposure and ever-increasing skin cancer rates, to require schools to adopt and implement skin cancer prevention instruction within existing course curriculum, including in-class and out-of-class activities, as well as provide adequate onsite shade cover.

(i) It is further recognized that the incidence of skin cancer and melanoma can be greatly reduced with coordinated attention and intervention from government, physicians, schools, medical researchers, and individuals.

SEC. 3. Section 51211 is added to the Education Code, to read:

51211. (a) The Superintendent shall inform county offices of education and school districts as to the availability of instructional materials relating to skin cancer prevention and the manner in which these materials may be obtained. The State Department of Health Services shall provide to the Superintendent, in electronic format, the list of skin cancer

prevention education resources designed for use in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, upon his or her request.

(b) (1) The department shall, after consulting with the State Department of Health Services, establish a skin cancer prevention policy to educate pupils in grades 1 to 6, inclusive. In developing this policy, the department shall utilize existing model policies and curriculum and may develop its own skin cancer prevention policy for dissemination to county boards of education and school districts.

(2) This policy may be used by school districts as a basis for school activities, to inform pupils and parents about issues relating to skin cancer, and to integrate skin cancer prevention instruction into health and science curricula.

(c) The policy developed pursuant to subdivision (b) shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(1) The cause and impact of skin cancer.

(2) Recommended behaviors to decrease the risk of contracting skin cancer.

(3) Recommendations to support school staff in its encouragement of pupils to practice sun safety behaviors.

(d) The department, after consultation with the State Department of Health Services and private corporations engaged in the provision of sunshade structures, shall report to the Legislature with respect to shade options for use over public school playground structures and outdoor eating areas, and the costs associated with those structures. The department shall implement this subdivision only to the extent that private funding is received by the department for this purpose.

Approved _____, 2005

Governor